

USC wins two, but finishes second in tourney



RENÉE MEYER/The Gamecock

Gamecock forward Clark Brisson shields the ball from an Akron defender in USC's 1-0 win over the Zips Sunday in the Met Life Classic at The Graveyard. Brisson scored the game-winning goal in Saturday's 3-2 win over UCLA and was named to the All-Tournament team.

Gamecocks' victories in Met Life Classic almost guarantee NCAA tournament bid

By CHRIS SILVESTRI
Sports Editor

The USC soccer team finished the Met Life Classic soccer tournament undefeated and untied — yet they had to settle for second place.

The Gamecocks defeated UCLA, 3-2, and Akron, 1-0. However, the Bison from the University of Howard, who also finished the tournament with two wins and no losses, claimed first place through a goal differential system.

Howard defeated UCLA, 2-0, and Akron, 3-1, giving them a goal differential of four goals, while USC's was only two.

In Sunday's game at The Graveyard against Akron, the Gamecocks used a first half goal by forward Jeff Love and solid play from goaltender Chris Foley to take the victory.

"We needed another win to assure us of an NCAA playoff bid," USC head coach Mark Berson said. "And I think that definitely helped our chances a lot today. We'll have to wait and see . . ."

The playoff bids to the NCAA tournament will be given out sometime today.

The deciding goal came with just under 15 minutes remaining in the first half, when Clark Brisson broke free inside the penalty box drawing out the goalie. Brisson then passed off to a wide open Jeff Love in

"This was one great soccer game (against UCLA) between two of the best teams in the nation. I'm very, very pleased. This was clearly our best performance of the year."

Mark Berson

front of the net who put the ball away.

"Not only does it help us in terms of getting an NCAA bid," Berson said. "It also helps us in terms of playing well going into the NCAA tournament."

The Gamecocks, now 15-2-2, withstood a relentless Akron attack in the second half, including a diving one-handed save by Foley, to preserve the win.

Saturday's game against UCLA was a classic clash between two of the nation's elite soccer teams.

Six yellow cards flashed, two players had to be carried off the field and a goal in the second overtime period decided the match.

USC clinched a 3-2 victory over the third-ranked Bruins when Brisson scored from a set play off a direct kick with 10:59 remaining to play.

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Seminoles scalp Gamecocks

By STEPHEN GUILFOYLE
Staff Writer

A tale of three quarterbacks. It was the best of times, it was the worst of times.

Worst, because the seventh-rated quarterback in NCAA Division I-A history is benched for the rest of the season by a serious injury to his knee.

Best, because two other quarterbacks are getting chances to have their dreams fulfilled.

Junior quarterback Dickie DeMasi, battered and bruised by an aggressive Florida State defense, was hammered for six sacks for 45 yards of losses in USC's 35-10 loss to the Seminoles at Doak Campbell Stadium.

But in the midst of that adversity, he still showed the poise to lead the Gamecocks on a touchdown drive.

On the 11th possession of the first half, after the Seminoles had scored their third unanswered touchdown, USC receiver Eddie

Miller fielded the kickoff at the 11 and took it 15 more yards, giving USC good field position one of the few times it had the ball.

The drive opened with backup tailback Albert Haynes running up the middle for a gain of 1 yard. After taking a timeout, DeMasi was looking long for receiver Robert Brooks, but it was incomplete. USC then called upon tailback Harold Green, who responded with a 12-yard run on third and long.

With a fresh first down at the 39, George Rush, playing at the fullback position in a 1-formation, went up the middle on a delay and gained 3 yards. Then DeMasi hit Eddie Miller for a gain of 15 yards. Green carried the ball one more time on the drive for 1 yard.

Then the dreams DeMasi has been telling the media about came true. He had already been sacked he had to handle the pressure. "I came up to the line of scrim-

mage and I saw that they were going to be blitzing — the safeties were creeping up a little bit," said DeMasi. "And I knew I had Eddie Miller on a post, so I dropped back, and I didn't see Eddie break yet, but I felt the pressure coming and I just released it."

"I wasn't sure if he was going to catch it — I wasn't sure how he caught it because I got hit — but I got up and saw Eddie looping around the outside and I said, 'Boy, that's a touchdown.'"

"That was a good feeling," he said.

USC had two other chances to score, twice they were within field goal range and brought in Collin Mackie.

He missed a 49-yard attempt in the first quarter, but redeemed himself later by hitting a 36-yarder halfway through the fourth quarter.

But the tale of the game was



TEDDY LEPP/The Gamecock

USC runningback Harold Green struggles to find running room against N.C. State. Green had the same problem this past weekend against Florida State in the Gamecocks 35-10 loss.

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